

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 92-023-R - ORDER NO. 92-990

NOVEMBER 20, 1992

IN RE:	Application of South Carolina)	ORDER DENYING
	Electric & Gas Company for)	MOTION FOR STAY
	Adjustments in the Company's)	AND GRANTING, IN
	Coach Fares and Charges, Routes)	PART, RECONSIDERATION
	and Route Schedules.)	
)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's (SCE&G's) Motion for Stay; and Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration of Order No. 92-928 and Rescission, Alteration or Amendment of Order No. 92-781, both of which were filed on November 6, 1992. Subsequent to the filing of these documents, SCE&G, on November 17, 1992, wrote to request amendments to Order No. 92-928, which established a bus discount fare plan for low income riders. These amendments would have the effect of continuing the plan, but modifying certain procedures set forth in Order No. 92-928. For the reasons stated below, the Motion for Stay is denied, and Reconsideration is granted only to the extent that the requested amendments as per the letter of November 17, 1992 are herein adopted.

First of all, with regard to the Motion for Stay, SCE&G set forth a number of grounds arguing that the Commission should stay

its Order establishing the low income bus fare plan. However, since the Company filed a request for amendment to the original Commission's Order which would simply modify the terms of the existing Order, and continue the plan, the Motion for Stay must be denied.

With regard to the Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration, the Company raised a number of grounds in which it stated that the resulting rates established after the institution of the low income fare plan were confiscatory, that there was no evidence in the record to support a finding that the low income rider discount plan resulted in rates which were just, reasonable and compensatory to the Company and other grounds as delineated in the Petition. We believe, however, that the Company letter of November 17, 1992 constitutes a compromise position which obviates the need for Commission consideration of grounds contained in the original Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration. We grant, however, reconsideration of Order No. 92-928 for the express purpose of adoption of the compromise plan set forth by the Company. We hereby adopt accordingly the following amendments to Commission Order No. 92-928:

1. The Company is hereby allowed to provide non-picture identification cards for qualified riders. The qualifications for such cards are as delineated in Order No. 92-928.

2. The cards are to be issued at customer service locations in Columbia and Charleston which are approximately within two

blocks of existing bus service.

3. The Company is hereby allowed to phase in the system over a three-month period whereby names are grouped alphabetically and persons whose names fall within specific alphabetic groupings for the month would be requested to obtain cards during that month.

4. Any rider who missed his or her assigned month should not be prohibited from getting a card at a time that differs from his or her scheduled time.

5. The non-picture identification card shall have a minimum six-month validity, with rolling expiration dates according to the month of issue.

6. The Company's bus drivers shall have the right to require additional identification, either picture or non-picture, from riders at the fare box at the discretion of the drivers in order to help control the possibility of abuse. However, no low income rider shall be denied the low income fare strictly for failure to possess a picture identification card.

7. Family members who are eligible for cards shall be defined under the definition of "immediate family," which appears in the Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act of 1991 at S.C. CODE ANN. §2-17-5 et seq. (1976, as amended).

8. During the time that the Company is implementing the new non-photo identification card system, the Company shall continue operation of the present "honor" system as disclosed to the Commission in correspondence submitted on November 12, 1992.

9. The Company is hereby given authorization to come back to

the Commission and request the ability to implement a picture identification system if such a system should later appear necessary to prevent abuse.

10. The Company shall furnish to the Commission on a monthly basis a report delineating the number of individuals applying for low income rider cards, along with the number that receive the cards and the number that did not receive them.

11. The Company shall continue to provide monthly figures concerning revenue collections, as has been done in the past. However, in addition to what has been submitted in the past, the Company shall seek an appropriate method of breaking down the gross figures to provide the parties and the Commission with a better idea of any revenue loss and costs that may be traced to the employment of the "honor" system and the new identification card system.

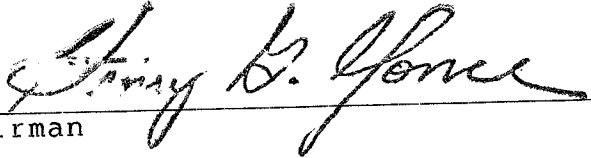
12. The Company shall notify its bus riders of the new non-picture identification card system and where eligible persons may obtain the cards. The Company shall also notify the riders of the dates for phase-in. This shall be accomplished by means of hand-outs to the riders, and notices posted on buses and transfer points in the Company's service areas.

The Commission hereby holds that Order No. 92-928 remains in full force and effect as amended above, and other than as stated above, the Company's Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration of Order No. 92-928 and Rescission, Alteration or Amendment of Order No. 92-781 is denied.

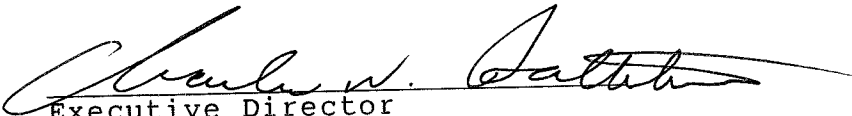
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion for Stay is denied.
2. The Petition for Rehearing and Reconsideration of Order No. 92-928 and Rescission, Alteration or Amendment of Order No. 92-781 is granted only to the extent of the amendments as listed above, but is otherwise denied.
3. Order No. 92-928 is hereby amended as stated in the body of this Order, but shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.
4. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)